

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4438

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E. O 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRN, XG

SUBJECT: CIVAIR-CHARTERS

REF STATE 209299

1. DURING DISCUSSION YESTERDAY WITH CABOUAT REPORTED PARIS 28014, HE INQUIRED ABOUT ISSUES US PROPOSED RAISE DURING ECAC CHARTER TALKS NEXT WEEK, THUS PROVIDING US OPENING TO EXPOSE HIM TO REFTEL ARGUMENTATIONS ON ECAC RECOMMEENDATION NO. 8.

2. CABOUAT FAILED TO SEE WHY US WAS MAKING SUCH AN ISSUE OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 8. AND HE WAS TAKEN ABACK THAT WE WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO CHARACTERIZE IT AS "UNFRIENDLY." HE FELT THAT US WAS EXAGGERATING NOT ONLY IMPORTANCE OF RECOMMENDATION BUT OF ECAC ITSELF, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS LOOSE ORGANIZATION THAT WAS MADE UP OF TECHNICIANS AND WAS NOT VERY EFFECTIVE POLICY INSTRUMENT. WE AGREED THAT PROCEDURES WITHIN ECAC WERE SLOW AND THAT DIVERGENCE RATHER THAN UNIFORMITY OF VIEWS AMONG ITS MEMBERS OFTEN SEEMED THE RULE. THIS LED US TO WONDER WHY RECOMMENDATION NO. 8W WAS LEFT IN EFFECT WHEN ABSENCE OF BROAD CONSENSUS WITHIN ECAC COULD THUS THEORETICALLY BE TO DETRIMENT OF SELF-INTEREST OF MEMBER STATE FACED WITH PENDING BILATERAL PROBLEMS. IN THIS CONNECTION TOO, IF ECAC WAS SO INEFFECTIVE AS CABOUAT CLAIMED, EMBASSY FAILED UNDERSTAND

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WHY GOF SO READILY WENT ALONG WITH ECAC INITIATIVE THAT

SEEMED TO HAVE SCUTTLED OUR PROPOSAL FOR INFORMAL BILATERAL TALKS ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC RATE SITUATION (PARIS 27449), WHICH WAS CERTAINLY NOT TO GOF'S INTEREST IF IT WISHED TO PROVIDE INPUT TO USG CURRENT THINKING ON THIS MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION. THIS SEEMED TO REGISTER WITH HIM.

3. CABOUAT SAID THAT NORMALLY FOREIGN MINISTRY LEFT DETAILS OF CHARTER QUESTIONS PRETTY MUCH TO SGAC, BUT WAS NOT AVERSE TO INTERVENING WITH SGAC TO INFLUENCE GOF VIEWS WHEN IMPORTANT QUESTIONS OF POLICY WERE INVOLVED ESPECIALLY WITH SO KEY A PARTNER AS US. SOMETIMES FOREIGN MINISTRY COULD HELP SMOOTH THINGS OVER. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT IF WE WERE TO INTERVENE WITH SGAC HE WOULD NEED MORE THAN GENERALITIES OF REFTEL POSITION. HE ASKED WHETHER WE COULD PROVIDE SEPCIFICS ON MANNER IN WHICH EXISTANCE OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 8 WAS DETRIMENTL TO OUR INTERESTS (OR TO THOSE OF EUROPEANS) AND SHOULD BE ELIMINATED.

4. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT ABRAHAM, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO REPRESENT GOF AT OUR POLICY LEVEL DISCUSSIONS WITH ECAC NEXT WEEK, WOULD BE ESPECIALLY RECEPTIVE TO REFTEL ARGUMENTATION, WHICH IS WHY WE HAVE NOT APPROACHED HIM DIRECTLY. CAN DEPARTMENT PROVIDE SOME PERSUASIVE SPECIFICS WITH WHICH WE CAN ARM CABOUAT? IRWIN

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